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{ CLUBS—FOR TERMS TO CLOSE AND PROSPECTUS ON NEXT PAGE. }

DEVOTED TO MORALITY, PURE LITERATURE, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC NEWS, AGRICULTURE, THE COMMERCIAL INTEREST, SCIENCE, ART AND AMUSEMENT.

VOLUME XXXIV. PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1855. WHOLE NO. 1763.

Pictures of Life.

ALWYN'S FIRST WIFE.

FROM FRASER'S MAGAZINE.

CHAPTER I.

You—the loved kiss—

It was the thing which has happened over and over again—which will do so to everlasting, whilst the world endures. Almost the oddest thing which can happen in the life of a woman: he only liked her—he loved him.

I use these impersonals in commencing, because they seem to come naturally to writing of the two—especially, I think, to a man—and these, and for years after, the most important things in my circle of existence—my brother, Alwyn Reid, and Marjory Blair. He lived with me, varying his travel as a teacher of languages to our country neighborhood; she was invalid. At least it was that at first; gradually I found he had gained the footing of a friend in the house. Old Mr. and Mrs. Blair were simple people; fonder even than grandparents are proverbially affianced to be. They liked everybody who liked Marjory.

And Alwyn did like—as I doubt not his manners openly told at the farm, for he was a warm-hearted, impulsive, and demonstrative fellow, that he liked Miss Marjory very much indeed.

She was the first woman he had known intimately, that is, for whom she had youth, grace and a cultivated mind; and at his age all women are angels. I feel sure that, for a little space, his fancy had built up the shadow of an ideal over the simple manners and mild, expressive face of Marjory Blair. For a big and a half he even contented with me that she was handsome. However, that notion faded away, and he contented himself with considering that it was her sort which made her beautiful, since in her were combined the finer kind of beauty and the most natural nature he had ever found in a woman. He used to talk of her qualities, taking her to pieces, examining them, and then putting them together, proclaiming continually her perfections, and ever ending with the kind face. At first I was uneasy for his sake, remembering that Mr. Blair was a rich farmer, and my brother but the father of what is called "prospects." From a keener observation, I grew satisfied on his score.

That things went on for a whole summer, it was not until the fall of the year that I, myself, was formally called to the farm.

Coming home, after having for a long evening watched Alwyn and Marjory, I found him from my own mind the conclusion, which after-wards became only too clear, thinking it only right to myself that I should be responsible for another's peace.

"Alwyn," I said, "you are in love with Miss Blair."

He laughed, and then began talking of how far she had got in Italian, and how in their lessons this morning, Petrarch's description of Laura had seemed to him scarcely like Marjory.

"Did you tell her so?"

"I don't remember—yes, I think I did. Why not? It really was very like her. I could not help it: could I now?"

I glanced at my brother, earnest face, or free from all a young man's self-conceit with regard to women.

"Oh, no," I said; yet my heart sighed—"Poor Marjory!"

All love-matters are more or less alike: it is just the same thing repeated in different forms every time it is told the second, third, and last end. The world would weary of it surely, save that the perpetually throbbing universal heart of the young generation is ever fresh, ever beautiful, and makes it always new.

People who have seen much, and been a lifetime of terms, can read all chimes, changes, and cause, sometimes ended by the will of fate, sometimes going out like a candle that burns down; rarely it ever growing to be a light to lighten the world. Yet we have all, more or less, thought we ought always to be—I mean to view these things differently, and it seems both idle and rather unkindly to ourselves to blame them at all.

This innocent, and love-tale of Master Blair I watched, week by week, till the end—and I mean to one end—I never watched it at all. Whether or no the parties concerned suspected the truth, and of themselves of each other, it was quite impossible to divine.

Alwyn was very quiet, composed, and silent, that is what I noticed. I was in question whether any love anxieties pity had not exaggerated the feelings—whether he was not in love at all? For Alwyn, he went on praising her to me in the most indefatigable and earnest way, but then he was the same, of nearly the same, strong moment, with whose loving simplicity he warmly admired, but whose loving a single one.

I repeat, he was not to blame. I, his sister, who he declared loved him best and judged him hardest of any one alive, say so. He was handsome, gay, ignorant of care. His way, in the highest degree, the poetic eclectic temperament, which feels the necessity of selecting from a variety of models, attracted by what is found in one woman, rare in another, and lovely in a third, and is therefore not down by the mere manner of dull half of the world as coarse, flashy liker and inconsistent. I do not join in that line and cry. It is constant to the one inward truth of its nature—its ideal of abstract perfection constantly pursued and seldom found.

SO MANY MEDICAL BOOKS I CAN'T SUPPLY
Which question reminds me how very much better thither has expressed this fact than I. All that I need is to defend my brother Alwyn, and all men of his type, from wholesale blind accusation of inconstancy and heartlessness in love. The error is in using the word "love" so wild, so vague, so full of the imagined or fancy. I need to count on my fingers Alwyn's "sweethearts," and smile at his fancied adorations, as, truly I do, over sins and mad like errors in the tide. I know that the great deep one of his manhood's love lay calm and still below them all.

The question was whether the time was come, and the man. Would Miss Blair be she? I doubted. She was not beautiful enough—a man like Alwyn, more than most men, requires a degree of absolute beauty in a wife. Poor Marjory, with her small sickly-face, was often plain—when she was changed so as to alter or look of his would sometimes, for an hour or day, transform her into another person, a creature of brightness and joy; again another chance word and all the light was gone out of her face, became a pale mystery, ordinary girl. At such times, on going home, Alwyn would say to me, "Really, I never saw a woman alter like Miss Blair. How very plain she looked on Friday night."

Poor little Marjory!

For my brother, he was utterly unconscious, silently! Never was there a young man more simple-minded, more free from self-conceit. I am only a man, and cannot understand in a woman's way. "I can't marry; everybody knows it. It will be at least ten years before I can venture to look at her with serious, therefore I am safe enough."

And I truly think he believed so. It never crossed his mind that, from his pure goodness and singleness of character, to any nothing of his other qualities, could a woman learn to love come to love him.

Have I set out strongly—I hope not to prove unto any one, calmly and impartially viewing the matter, that no wrong could be laid at Alwyn's door?

Thus the year went round.

Alwyn and I spent a rather dreary Christmas. We knew not how it was, but his pupils and the father of one of them had left us. There was a thinly populated district, and I found no other children replacing the little boys who, one after the other, were removed to be sent to grammar and foundation-schools. I speculated, between the lines of my brother's letters to Miss Blair, on the possibility of opening a boarding-school.

But then I should have to get rid of you, Alwyn?"

[illegible] I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

I was afraid he was delirious. My looks must have grieved him; for after a minute he held out his hand.

"I did not mean to be cross with you, Charlotte. You are very good to me. Nobody ever loved me like you, except——"

I knew whom he meant.

[illegible]

"Still harping on that old string, Charlotte? Well, I suppose I must be grateful to you for it. Come, Charlotte, you are not angry with me?"

"No, I am not angry, but——"

"But you think me very much changed, don't you? I believe it is the possible."

I think my manner will show what it is to see so flagging-brained a brother, with illimitable cheek and a thing just-loved possible.

"What does she look like?"

"Herself exactly. But more as she used to look as a girl before I married her."

"Does she ever speak?"

"Yes, sometimes."

"Very much indifferent, I suppose, and lots a sort of moan. "Oh, my poor Marjory, what a blind fool was I! Good-night, I fancy; she felt the truth—though, thank God! she never loved it."

For I had not dared to tell him the sad fact, which the doctor—the doctor's quarter-deck opinion that she must speedily die of brain disease, childbirth, alias 'make me feel as if I were my own executioner.'"

"Charlotte, do you think she knows I love her now?"

"I do think it."

"I wish I could not see that moan. I began to sing among my beach of keys.

"Whose place was it?"

"I belong to—I only—you who is dead."

The child colored—interchanged a glance with her father. His said, quietly,

"Yes, it was hers, Margaret;" and waited, first to the window, then quietly out of the room.

"Aunt, I know who that lady was. Papa has told me once or twice, and she was my mamma; I have her very much."

"Bless them, my dear-child."

"Aunt, you were cross, sad. Papa and I never do, and we often talk about her. I know her quite well. Papa says I am just a very little like her sometimes, am I?"

"Is may be."

"Oh, I wish I were! She was so good. Papa loved her so. He says, the more I grow like her, the more he shall love me every day."

I could hardly speak. Oh, Marjory, then living still—then could'st not die!

"Aunt, now may I open her piano?"

"Not to-day I had to put it in her stead. Margaret was very happy; she sat all the evening playing her pretty simple music by the fire. Her father sat with his head on her knee, and the spirit of the lost had come back to us in his child.

It was a strange thing—which, while they were staying here struck other people besides myself—that Margaret was—the little Margaret I knew the Alwyn's first with. Not in face exactly, but in manner and voice. Sometimes, for one, the likeness rather harrassed than delighted. Your by-year—far from this time I had left my brother's household—had stopped at the expiration of the period for which they have subscribed.

Margaret was a handsome child—she looks prettier that we now have—but the feature and the form of them all.

She was her father's right hand. He loved her better than all his other sons and daughters.

I do not think Mrs. Reid minded it, being a kind-hearted, fashion like woman, to whom the love of father and child was a thing to be brought up her family well, and from their studies began setting here she should yet see her son in the world, and make a good husband-daughters. She was affectionate to her husband's children, and always considered that he [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

SATURDAY EVENING POST.

PHILADELPHIA:

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1856.

General News.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

ARRIVAL OF THE ATLANTIC.—DISBANDMENT OF BURGTYPOOL.—THE VIENNA CONFERENCE AGREED.

By the Atlantic, we have Liverpool dates to the 25th ult.,—being nine days' later news.

The conference is in the full agree. Russia unconditionally refuses to assume to the limitation of her power in the Black Sea, but offers to permit the maintenance of a Turkish armament equal to her own on Black Sea waters, provided the fleet or no other nation have the right to enforce. France and England, after vainly insisting on the unconditional reduction of the Russian armament, at length admit that Russia's proposition is worthy of consideration, "the more so as it is not unlikely that the Russian fleet may be destroyed sooner or later"—maintaining decidedly that the Russian armament must be reduced to the standard of 1853. The Russian fleet consists of 14 ships of the line, 15 frigates, 15 steamers, and 10 brigs. The Russian fleet consists of 14 ships of the line, 15 frigates, 15 steamers, and 10 brigs.

The disbandment of the armies of Baden, Hesse, Nassau, Frankfort, Hesse Homburg, and Lippe is ordered to take effect on the 1st of May. The Federal army will consist of 100,000 men, instead of 120,000, as heretofore. The Federal army will consist of 100,000 men, instead of 120,000, as heretofore.

The Paris Bourse is buoyant. Rentes 70 f. 50 c. for money. Consols 90½ for money. Exchange on London 25 f. 30 c. Bank shares 1,500 f. Spanish 3 per cents 39½. Spanish Passives 5½. Spanish Certificates 5½. Mexican 3 per cents 21. Belgian 4½ per cents 97. Belgian 3 per cents 72½. Sardinian 5 per cents 93. Sardinian 3 per cents 72½. Roman 5 per cents 103. Roman 3 per cents 72½. Turkish 6 per cents 97. Turkish 4 per cents 72½. Turkish 3 per cents 72½. Turkish 2 per cents 72½. Turkish 1 per cents 72½. Turkish 6 per cents 97. Turkish 4 per cents 72½. Turkish 3 per cents 72½. Turkish 2 per cents 72½. Turkish 1 per cents 72½.

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NEWS ITEMS.

NUMEROUS ARRIVALS.—After the 1st of May, the Pacific Mail Steamship Company will be assigned to her, by which she may be enabled to accommodate passengers at the same or other description. The series of numbers will be continued in regular, regular arithmetical progression; a number once assigned to a vessel will not be given to any other.

The New York Times speaks of the British Minister at Washington as "my Lord Crampton." The Secretary of Legation will doubtless be surprised to learn that he has been elevated to the peerage, and that a New York newspaper should be selected to make the announcement of the fact to the world.

THE FIRE STEAMSHIP.—The corner-stone of the new steamship, to be built at the yard of Messrs. Lenox & Co., on the 15th ult., being the first steamship ever built in the city of Washington, was laid with appropriate ceremonies.

A young man named Kossuth, said to be a relative of Louis Kossuth, the Hungarian exile, was crushed to death in a coal pit, near Pittsburg, on Monday evening.

THE VIENNA CONFERENCE.—The Turkish Ambassador, it appeared, strongly represented the propriety of the Black Sea into the Mediterranean. The Russians were anxious to be allowed to keep a considerable fleet in the Black Sea. Accordingly the Conference will decide between the Russian and Turkish plenipotentiaries. The Russians were anxious to be allowed to keep a considerable fleet in the Black Sea. Accordingly the Conference will decide between the Russian and Turkish plenipotentiaries.

It is now understood that the smuggler, Ben Wood, who was arrested in New York, and released on New Orleans, had long been at such a high rate of interest, that he had a claim of $50 per thousand, under the name of "smuggling," against the United States. He was released on bail, and the Customs-House officers have no further claim upon him.

The Marine Society publishes that, during the night of the 14th, the fleet of the Allies obtained considerable advantage over the Russians. Gortchakoff, on the night of the 14th, was driven from his position, and the Allies obtained considerable advantage over the Russians. Gortchakoff, on the night of the 14th, was driven from his position, and the Allies obtained considerable advantage over the Russians.

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Original Poetry.

FLOWERS IN THE MARKET PLACE.

WRITTEN FOR THE SATURDAY EVENING POST.

BY PHILIP PAUL.

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